Foodgrains allotted to Kerala

2937. DR. VIJAY MALLYA : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) how many times, the prices of PDS rice and wheat have been enhanced after this Government assumed power and the details thereof;

(b) the foodgrains allotted to Kerala for distributing to the BPL cardholders and the requirement prescribed by Government for each cardholder per month;

(c) whether any insufficiency of foodgrains allotment to the BPL families in Kerala has been brought to the notice of Government and the steps taken to augment the supplies, and

(d) whether the Union Government will approve the BPL families identified by the State Government and allot the foodgrains to them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) There has been no increase in Central Issue prices of PDS rice and wheat since the present Government assumed office.

(b) 54,384 tonnes of foodgrains are allocated to the State of Kerala for 15.54 lakh Below Poverty Line (BPL), including Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY), households per month. Foodgrains are allocated @ 35 kgs per household per month for AAY, BPL and APL population of the States.

(c) and (d) A request was received from the Government of Kerala in which Government of India has been requested to approve the number of BPL households identified by the State Government and to allot food grains at BPL rates to the increased BPL households identified in the State.

For allocation of foodgrains under the TPDS, the BPL households are estimated on the basis of the poverty estimate of the Planning Commission for 1993-94 and population projection of the Registrar General as on 01.03.2000. This policy is followed uniformly for all the States/UTs. As per this formula the total BPL (including AAY) households estimated for the State of Kerala is 15.54 lakhs and allocation of foodgrains is being made to State of Kerala accordingly. Therefore, the request of the State Government for additional allocation to Kerala as per the BPL households identified by the State Government has not been accepted.